

2015

FP-15-08 The Remarriage Rate: Geographic Variation, 2013

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Payne, Krista K., "FP-15-08 The Remarriage Rate: Geographic Variation, 2013" (2015). *National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles*. 73.

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The Remarriage Rate

Geographic Variation, 2013

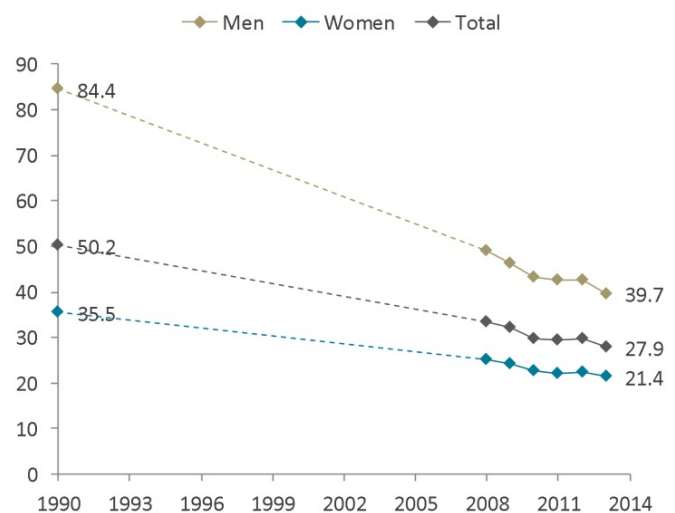


Krista K. Payne

The United States has one of the highest divorce rates in the world (Amato, 2010; Cherlin, 2010), yet little is known about contemporary patterns of remarriage. In the mid-1990s, the majority of men (78%) and women (69%) remarried following a divorce (Schoen and Standish, 2001). According to the 1990 U.S. Vital Statistics, the remarriage rate was about 43 per 1,000 previously married men and women (Clarke, 1995). Beginning in 2008, marital history questions have been asked each year on the American Community Survey (ACS) allowing the estimation of the remarriage rate for the first time since the 1990s when the collection of detailed data was suspended due to reporting and funding constraints. This profile documents trends in the remarriage rate from 2008-2013, establishes the median age at remarriage in 2013, and illustrates geographic variation in the remarriage rate for men and women in 2013.

- In 2013, the remarriage rate was approximately 28 per 1,000—28 remarriages occurred per 1,000 men and women age 18 and older who were eligible to remarry (see Note below).
 - This represents a 44% decline since 1990 and a 16% decline since 2008.
- The remarriage rate is consistently much higher for men (40 per 1,000) than for women (21 per 1,000).
 - Men experienced a somewhat greater decline since 2008 (19%) compared to women (15%).
- Men are older than women, on average, when they remarry.
 - In 2013, the median age at remarriage was 45.5 for men and 42.8 for women—two years older than the median ages in 2008.

Figure 1. Remarriage Rate in the U.S., 2008-2013



↑ Five States with the Highest and Lowest Remarriage Rate, 2013 ↓

Women's Highest & Lowest Remarriage Rates

1. Utah	45.8
2. Wyoming	39.8
3. Alaska	39.5
4. Vermont	35.9
5. Arkansas	35.1
U.S.	21.4
47. South Dakota	13.7
48. Massachusetts	13.4
49. Connecticut	13.3
50. New Jersey	12.2
51. Rhode Island	11.5

Men's Highest & Lowest Remarriage Rates

1. North Dakota	72.9
2. Utah	64.7
3. Mississippi	53.1
4. Delaware	53.0
5. Arkansas	51.3
U.S.	39.7
47. Massachusetts	29.0
48. South Dakota	27.2
49. Vermont	24.4
50. Connecticut	24.3
51. Rhode Island	20.5

Note: This profile limits analyses to ever married respondents age 18 and older at risk of remarriage in the past 12 months. This excludes respondents who indicate being currently married or separated and did not experience a marriage, divorce, or become widowed within the past 12 months. Additionally, this profile excludes respondents who are currently married or separated whose first marriage occurred within the past 12 months.

Geographic Variation in the U.S. Remarriage Rate, 2013

Women

- Among states with the highest women's remarriage rates, the largest share is located in the western region of the U.S. (Utah, Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Hawaii, Colorado, and New Mexico)
- Among states with the lowest women's remarriage rates, the largest share is located in the northeastern region of the U.S. (Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island).

Men

- Among states with the highest men's remarriage rates, the largest share is located in the southern region of the U.S. (Mississippi, Delaware, Arkansas, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama)
- Among states with the lowest men's remarriage rates, the largest share is located in the northeastern region of the U.S. (New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island).

Figure 2. Geographic Variation of U.S. Women's Remarriage Rate Among States

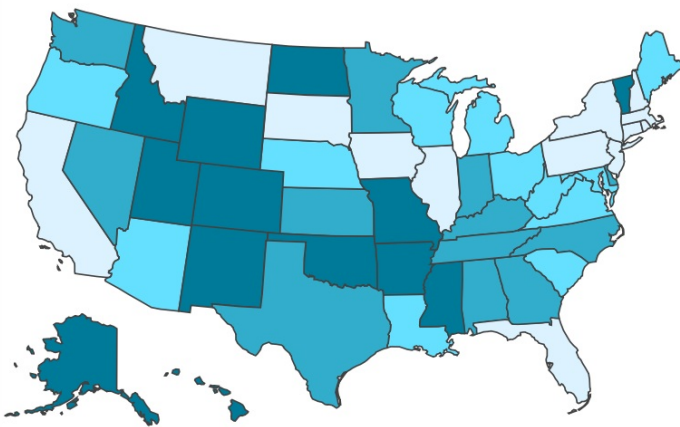
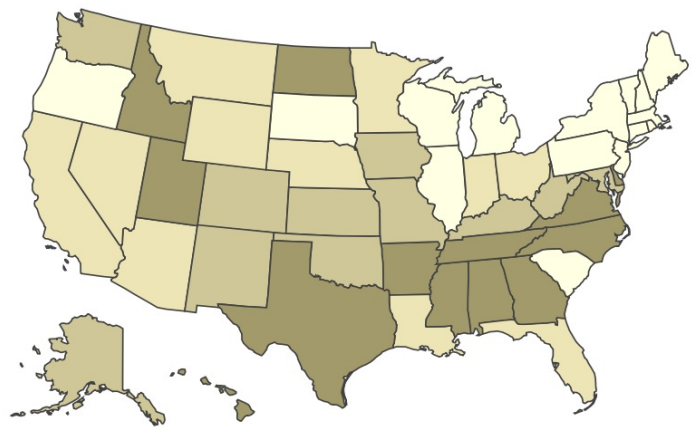


Figure 3. Geographic Variation of U.S. Men's Remarriage Rate Among States



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Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2008-2013

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Suggested Citation:

Payne, K. K. (2015). The Remarriage Rate: Geographic Variation, 2013. (FP-15-08). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from: <http://bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles/payne-remarriage-rate-fp-15-08.html>



This project is supported with assistance from Bowling Green State University. From 2007 to 2013, support was also provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the state or federal government.

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